
Subject: Re: Extracting info from the ASCII file with IDL

Posted by [Gray](#) on Thu, 18 Nov 2010 16:40:36 GMT

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On Nov 18, 10:38 am, Sasha Singh <sashasingh....@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi,

> I have a ASCII text file whose entries look like this

>

> 111 AA 25 XX

> 111 AB -5 XX

> 222 AC 25 XX

> 222 AD 20 XX

> 222 AE 21 XX

> 333 AF 88 XX

> 444 AG 21 XX

> 444 AH 90 XX

> and so on.....

> In this file the first column represents a unique number refering to

> an experiment. Any particular experiment

> was repeated a random number of times, such as experiment 111 was

> repeated twice, experiment 222 was

> repeated 3 times, experiment 333 was done only once. I need to know

> how many unique experiments were done.

> To clarify it further, in above example 4 experiments (111, 222, 333

> and 444) were done. I need to know this in a file which has 1300 rows.

> Please help.

Use READCOL from the NASA IDL astronomy library to read the first column. Then do `n_elements(unique(data,sort(data)))`.
